# MUSUNDE SCANS PRESENTS:

## MUSHIKAGO NO CAGASTER
## VOL 1 CH01

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橋本花鳥
Kachou Hashimoto
虫籠のカガステル
Cagaster of an Insect Cage
Ryu
徳間書店

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First publication: Kachou Hashimoto personal site "soul of the chicken" (September 2006 to April 2008)

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(First publication: Monthly Comic Ryu, 2010 January Issue)

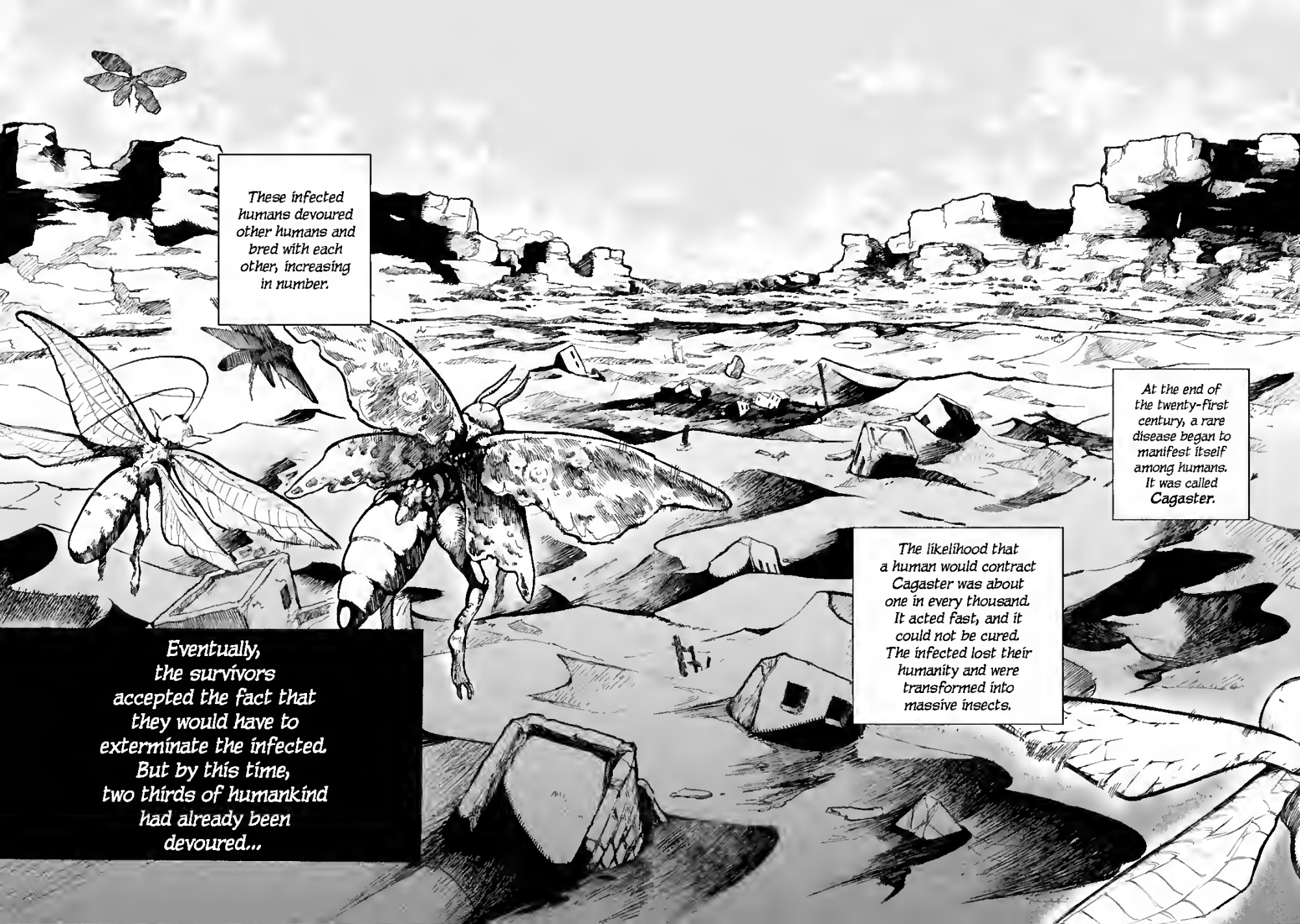
# 虫籠のカガステル ①

Cagaster of an Insect Cage

Cagaster © 2014 Kachou Hashimoto / Éditions Glénat

1
虫籠のカガステル
Cagaster of an Insect Cage
Kachou Hashimoto
橋本花鳥

第1話
ア ア ア…
ga ga ga ga ga
ARE THEY...
REALLY HUMAN ...?


At the end of the twenty-first century, a rare disease began to manifest itself among humans. It was called Cagaster.
The likelihood that a human would contract Cagaster was about one in every thousand. It acted fast, and it could not be cured. The infected lost their humanity and were transformed into massive insects.
These infected humans devoured other humans and bred with each other, increasing in number.
Eventually, the survivors accepted the fact that they would have to exterminate the infected. But by this time, two thirds of humankind had already been devoured...

2125 AD:
Southwest
Asia
crack

AAAAH!!

WOO-
HOO!

THAT WAS AWESOME!
IMPRESSIVE AS ALWAYS, EXTERMINATOR!
STRONG! INVINCIBLE! SUPER-HUMAN!
BUGS FEAR HIM! WHAT A SEXY MAN!
i'll pay your escort fees with my body! Kidou-samaaa!
...
JUST HAND OVER THE CASH! IDIOT MERCHANT...
...I WANT NO PART OF THAT BODY...!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT WOULD COME WITH ME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS, KIDOU-CHAN.
...LOOK AT THAT GIGANTIC CAGE.
AND YET YOU'RE STILL WILLING TO COME HERE. I USED TO THINK YOU WERE INSANE, BUT NOW I SEE YOU'RE JUST AN IDIOT.
THE AREA JUST PAST HERE BELONGS TO THE BUGS. ENTER CARELESSLY AND YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER MEAL...

HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A MERCHANT IF YOU'RE SCARED OF SOME BUGS? YOU WON'T BE A MERCHANT FOR LONG IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO TAKE SOME RISKS!
BUT BEING AN IDIOT PAYS OFF HANDSOMELY! LOOK AT THIS! ALL THE SCRAPS LEFT BEHIND BY MERCHANTS THAT WERE ATTACKED BY THE BUGS!
... WHATEVER.
MISTER EXTERMI-NATOR?
AND SERIOUSLY – YOU'RE CALLING ME INSANE? YOUR JOB ISN'T EXACTLY FOR SANE PEOPLE EITHER, YOU KNOW. DO YOU REALIZE THAT?
DON'T YOU THINK SO...?
THIS ISN'T INSANITY. IT'S SIMPLE ECONOMICS!
THE BUGS EAT HUMANS AND THEN I, JIN-CHAN, PICK UP THE LEFTOVERS! AND YOU AS THE EXTERMINATOR ESCORT ME...
S-S...
...WHAT? DID KARMA FINALLY CATCH UP WITH YOU?
?!
K-KIDOU!

SOME-ONE'S STILL ALIVE!
...PLEASE...
P...
YOU'RE SO BLUNT...
HE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY A BUG... HE'S NOT GONNA MAKE IT.
...Ta...
Take... Ille...!
WHAT IS IT? IF YOU'VE GOT ANY LAST WORDS, I'M LISTENING.

PLEASE...
TAKE ILIE... TO TANIA... HER MOTHER...
KIDOU-CHAN, YOU SHOULDN'T GET YOURSELF INVOLVED IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
IT'S NOT LIKE PICKING UP A STRAY DOG OR A CAT... IT'LL BE A HASSLE...

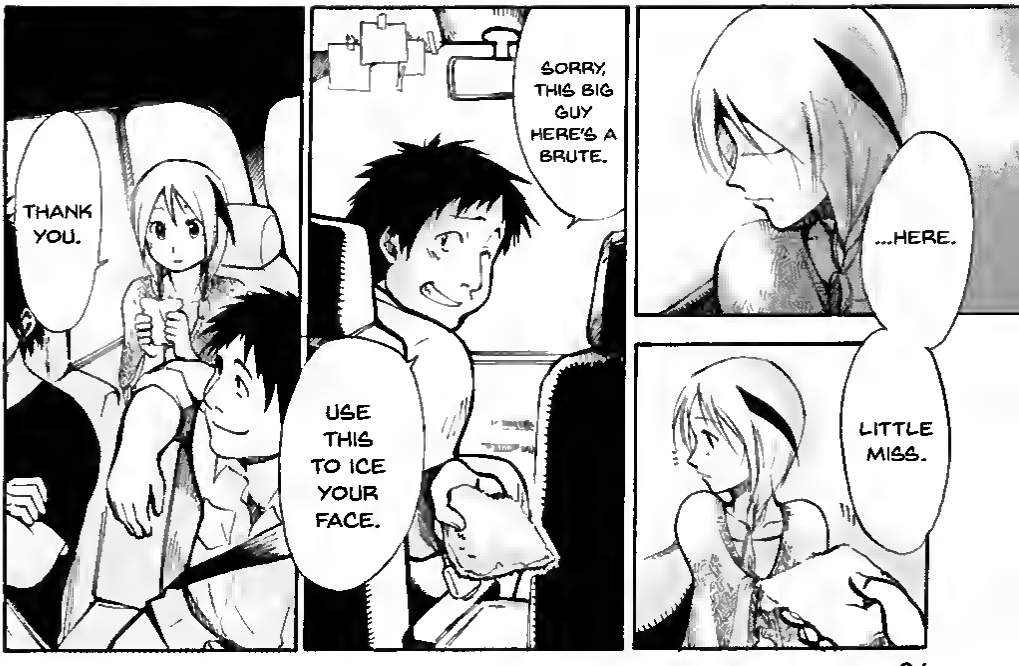
GOT IT.
.....
SLIP
YOU CAN REST IN PEACE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAUGHTER.
... NNGH...
!!

DAD?!
D—
LET ME DOWN! MY DAD'S HURT!
LITTLE MISS! CALM DOWN!
WE'RE NEAR THE CAGE, SO IF YOU MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE...
DAD ...
!
WHA ?
HE WAS ATTACKED BY A BUG, RIGHT?
HE'S ALREADY DEAD.
NO!
WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE! I'M FINE! LET ME...
GET OVER HERE!
WHAT GOOD WILL CLINGING ON TO A DEAD BODY DO?

...HEY!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT HER!
I'LL LEND YOU A HAND UNTIL YOU CAN FIND YOUR MOTHER.
IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S DYING WISH.
IF YOU HAVE NO WILL TO LIVE, THEN DIE HERE.
BUT IF YOU CAN'T STAND UP ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET, THERE'S NO SAVING YOU.

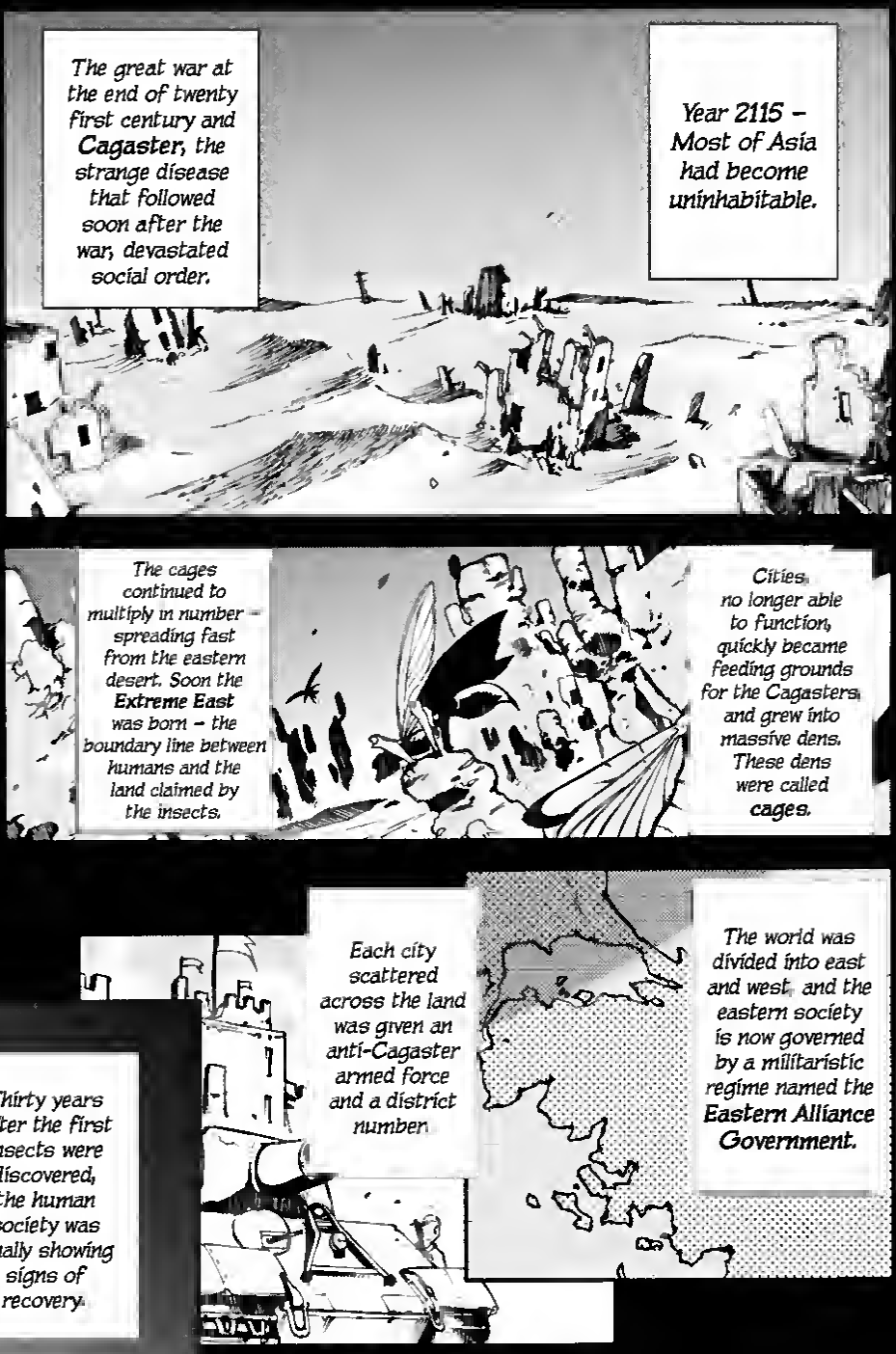
... GOOD-BYE,
DAD...

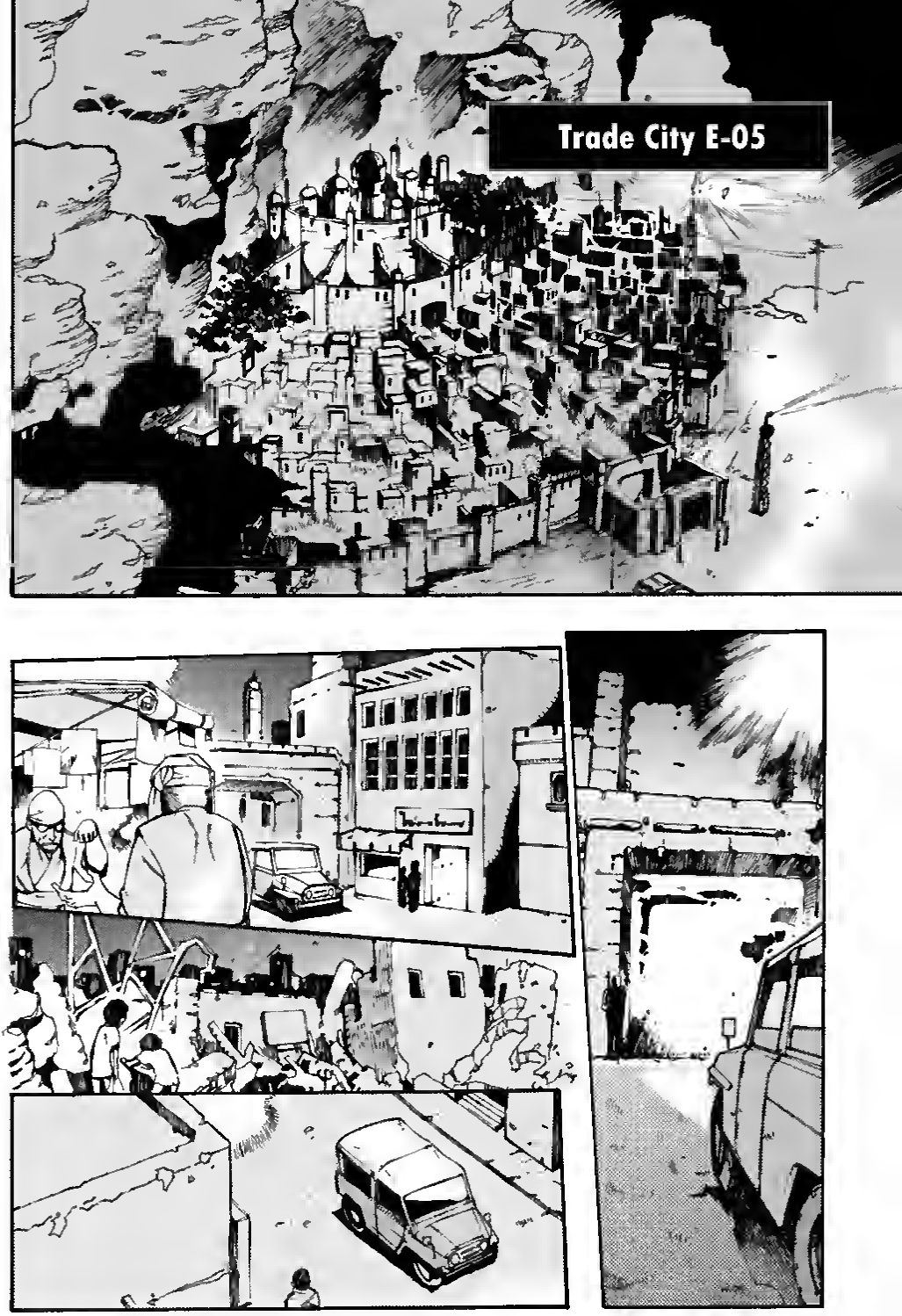
ブロロ。
room


THANK YOU.
USE THIS TO ICE YOUR FACE.
SORRY, THIS BIG GUY HERE'S A BRUTE.
...HERE.
LITTLE MISS.

ぺと...
ぽろ...
nnngh...
...hic...
Aaah...
WHAT?
...HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG?
Uwaa aaah...

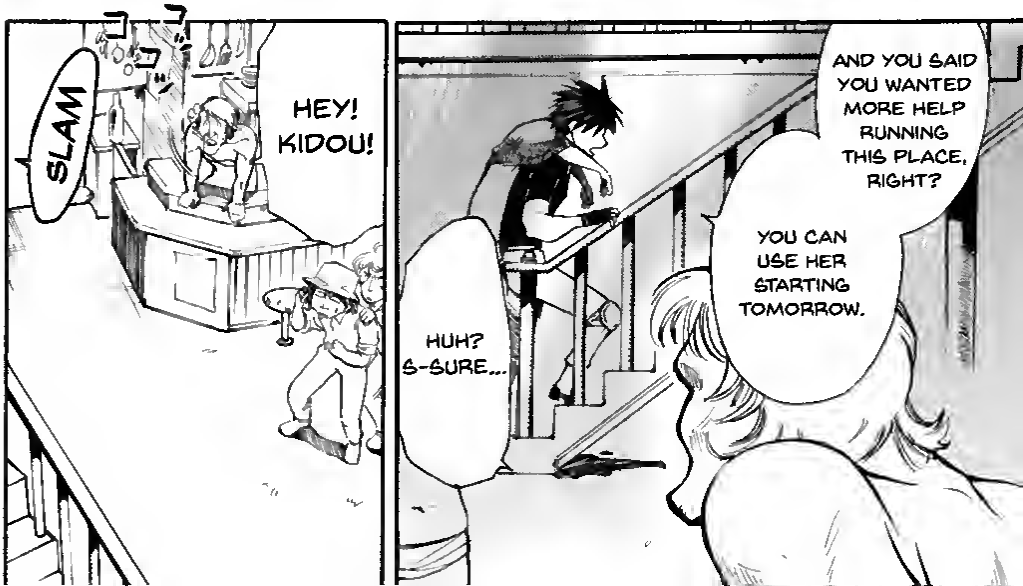
Aaaa aaah
...HIC
AAAH...
Uwaa aaah!
SEE! YOU MADE HER CRY!
Grip
YOU SADIST! VIOLENT BULLY!
YOU MADE HER CRY! YOU MADE HER CRY! ♪
KIDOU-CHAN MADE A GIRL CRY...
...SHUT UP! SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND DRIVE, YOU FAT IDIOT!!
HEY!
STOP! HONEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT RIGHT NOW..!

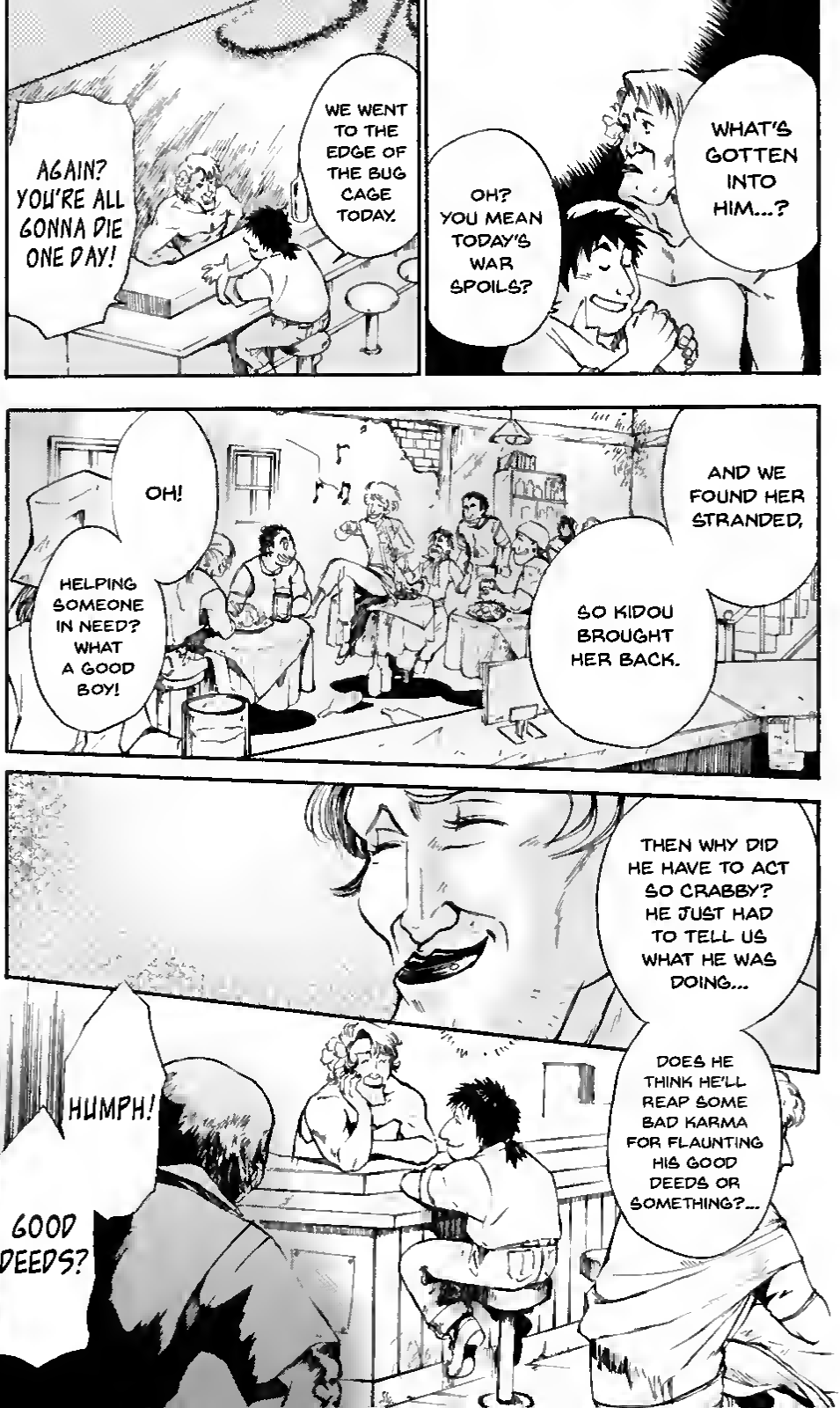

The great war at the end of twenty first century and **Cagaster**, the strange disease that followed soon after the war, devastated social order.
Year 2115 – Most of Asia had become uninhabitable.
The cages continued to multiply in number – spreading fast from the eastern desert. Soon the **Extreme East** was born – the boundary line between humans and the land claimed by the insects.
Cities, no longer able to function, quickly became feeding grounds for the Cagasters, and grew into massive dens. These dens were called **cages**.
Each city scattered across the land was given an anti-Cagaster armed force and a district number.
The world was divided into east and west, and the eastern society is now governed by a militaristic regime named the **Eastern Alliance Government**.
Thirty years after the first insects were discovered, the human society was finally showing signs of recovery.


Trade City E-05

...OH?
YOU'RE BACK EARLY, KIDO-
OH?!
...WHAT?
He's brought back his game

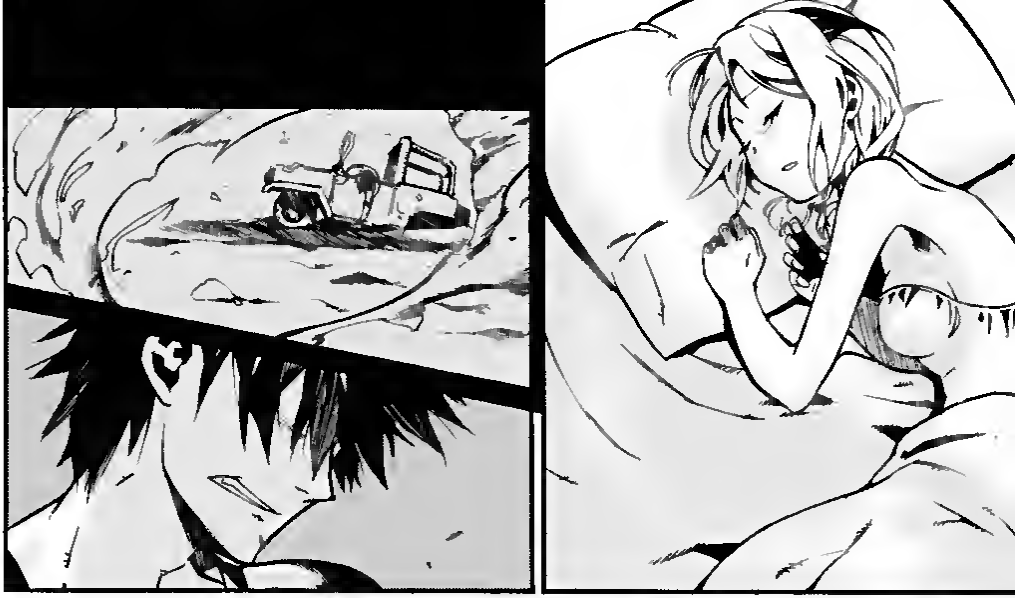
OH, DEAR! KIDOU, YOU FINALLY BROUGHT HOME A GIRL...
YEAH! YOU'RE SEVENTEEN NOW, IT'S ABOUT TIME
whisper whisper whisper
YOU'RE FINALLY INTERESTED IN WOMEN, HUH?
SHUT UP!!
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE! I'LL MAKE SOMETHING SPECIAL!
MARIO! CAN YOU LOOK FOR SOMEONE NAMED TANIA?
IT'S SUPPOSEDLY THE NAME OF THIS GIRL'S MOTHER.
HUH? SURE... LOOKING FOR HER WON'T BE A BIG DEAL...

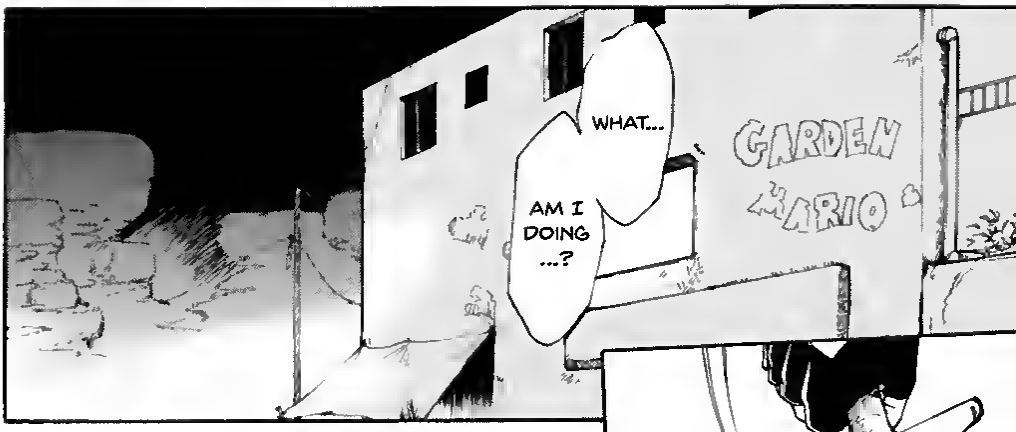

HEY! KIDOU!
SLAM
AND YOU SAID YOU WANTED MORE HELP RUNNING THIS PLACE, RIGHT?
YOU CAN USE HER STARTING TOMORROW.
HUH? S-SURE...

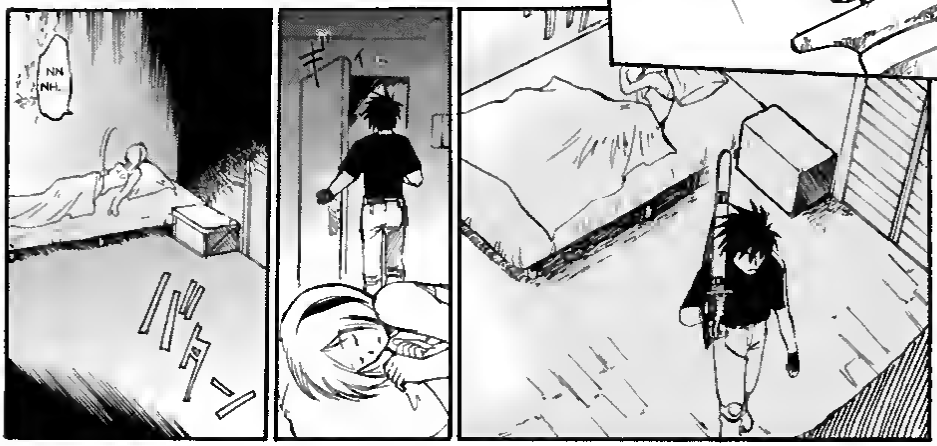

AGAIN? YOU'RE ALL GONNA DIE ONE DAY!
WE WENT TO THE EDGE OF THE BUG CAGE TODAY.
OH? YOU MEAN TODAY'S WAR SPOILS?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM...?
OH!
HELPING SOMEONE IN NEED? WHAT A GOOD BOY!
SO KIDOU BROUGHT HER BACK.
AND WE FOUND HER STRANDED,
HUMPH!
GOOD DEEDS?
DOES HE THINK HE'LL REAP SOME BAD KARMA FOR FLAUNTING HIS GOOD DEEDS OR SOMETHING?...
THEN WHY DID HE HAVE TO ACT SO CRABBY? HE JUST HAD TO TELL US WHAT HE WAS DOING...

THEY'LL CHOP OFF HEADS WITH A SMILE IF IT NETS THEM A LITTLE MORE CASH!
EXTERMI-NATORS ARE NOTHIN' MORE THAN MURDERERS!
SHADDAP! DAMN EXTERMI-NATORS!
...HEY! YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YA! GOOD DEEDS?! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
HIS SON BECAME A BUG AND GOT EXTERMI-NATED.
UGH... MR. MURAD'S AT IT AGAIN...
...DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM.
THE HELL DID MY SON DO?! HUH?!

I HEARD HIS LAST MOMENTS WERE SOMETHING GRUESOME... SOMEONE WHO WAS THERE TOLD ME...
HIS BODY HAD TURNED HALF INTO A BUG AND HE WAS BEGGING FOR HIS LIFE, BUT NEXT THING YOU KNOW, IT WAS OFF WITH HIS HEAD...
AND THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE AS THE HEAD JUST ROLLED TO THE GROUND
AAH THAT'S ENOUGH! I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
THE FACT THAT PEOPLE WILLINGLY CHOOSE TO DO THAT JOB... TO EXTERMINATE...
IT'S SOMETHING WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND...




WHAT...
AM I DOING ...?
GARDEN MARIO


NN NH.

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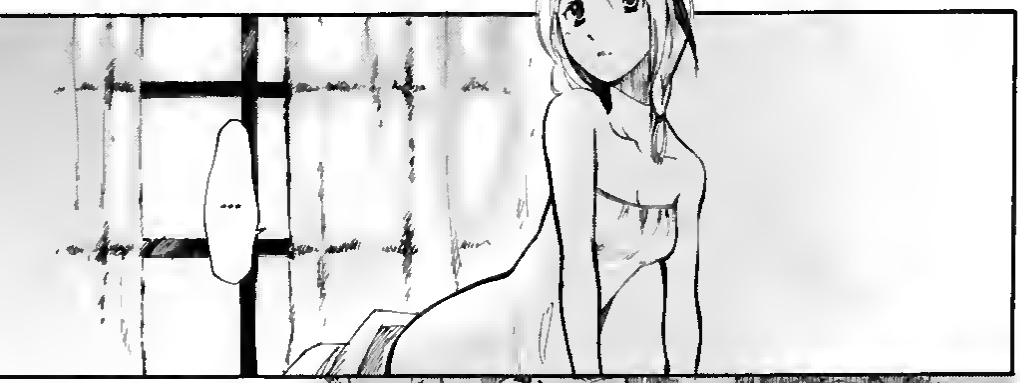
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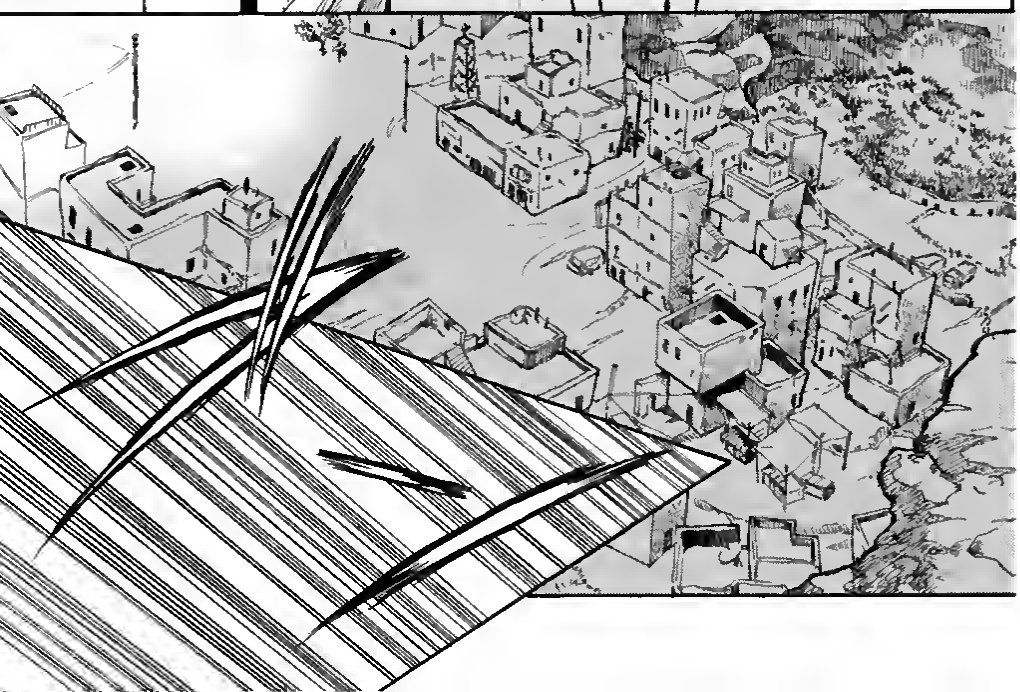


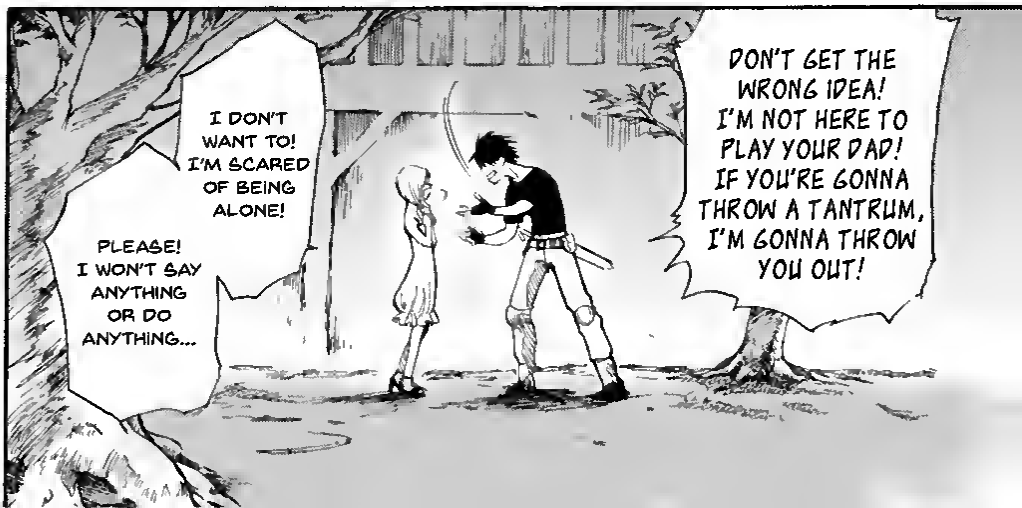
EXTERMI-
NATORS
ARE
SWORDS.
EMOTIONS
ARE UNNECES-
SARY FOR
TOOLS OF
MURDER.

CAGASTERS AREN'T HUMANS.
DON'T LISTEN TO HUMANS THAT START TO SHOW THE SYMPTOMS. THEY AREN'T HUMAN ANYMORE. THEIR CRIES AREN'T HUMAN.
DON'T HESITATE. CUT OFF ITS HEAD.
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, IF YOU TRULY CALL YOURSELF AN EXTERMI-NATOR...
YOU MUST BECOME A HEARTLESS TOOL ATOP A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES.
力#...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
I JUST PERSONALLY SEE TO IT THAT DYING REQUESTS ARE HONORED.
OH.
UM... THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME TODAY...
I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO THANK YOU PROPERLY...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
... WHAT.

OTHERWISE I'D BE SELLING YOU OFF AT A BROTHEL RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
...WHAT'S A BROTHEL?
UGH, THIS SHELTERED BRAT!
JUST GO TO BED!
I DON'T WANNA SEE YOUR FACE!

...I DON'T WANT TO.
I WANT TO BE HERE.
...I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW.


DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY YOUR DAD! IF YOU'RE GONNA THROW A TANTRUM, I'M GONNA THROW YOU OUT!
I DON'T WANT TO! I'M SCARED OF BEING ALONE!
PLEASE! I WON'T SAY ANYTHING OR DO ANYTHING...

WHAT-EVER!
...
...Back then,
I wasn't afraid.
...I don't know why.

But I didn't want to think about why I felt that way.
So I closed my eyes and my heart closed as well.